

Hacker's Creek Journal

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, Inc.
A Historical & Genealogical Society of Central WV

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 2, 2023

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Table of contents

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News Articles Needed
Please consider submitting an article about your family for future publication. You could tell how your ancestors became part of Northcentral WV or other interesting stories. No more than 3 typewritten pages. Photos are great.
Send to HCPD, 45 Abbotts Run Rd., Horner, WV 26372 or hcpd@hackerscreek.com

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 304.269.7091



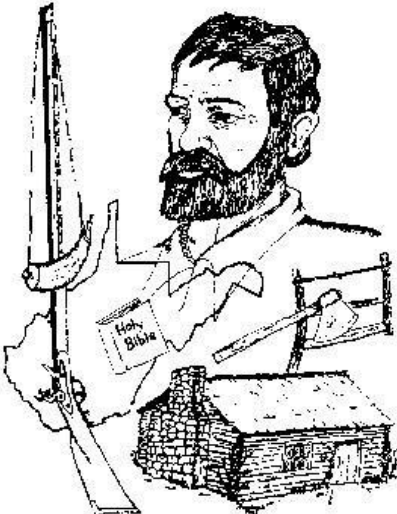
 <http://www.hackerscreek.org>

Patty Lesondak, Executive Director

Office hours: Monday—Thursday, 10:00—3:00
Open after hours by request

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Board Meetings

2nd Thursday of each month
1:00 P.M. at the library or via Zoom
Annual Meeting for 2024—August 10



Editorial policy:

Material is solicited from members & non-members. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject, and edit as deemed necessary. Neither HCPD nor its officers assume responsibility for errors of fact or opinions made by contributors.

Submission of material:

Articles should be typed when possible. Articles submitted electronically need to be in Word or a pdf format. Photographs or scanned documents should be in a JPEG format. Please include a SASE for any material to be returned.

Queries:

Queries are free. Be specific. Include full names, dates, and places if known & your contact information. 50-word limit per query.

Membership Dues:

Dues are \$40 annually per individual or household mailing address, due October 1. Members with unpaid dues (by 3 months grace period) will be dropped from the current year's membership roll.

MESSAGE FROM HCPD PRESIDENT
DORIS DEAN

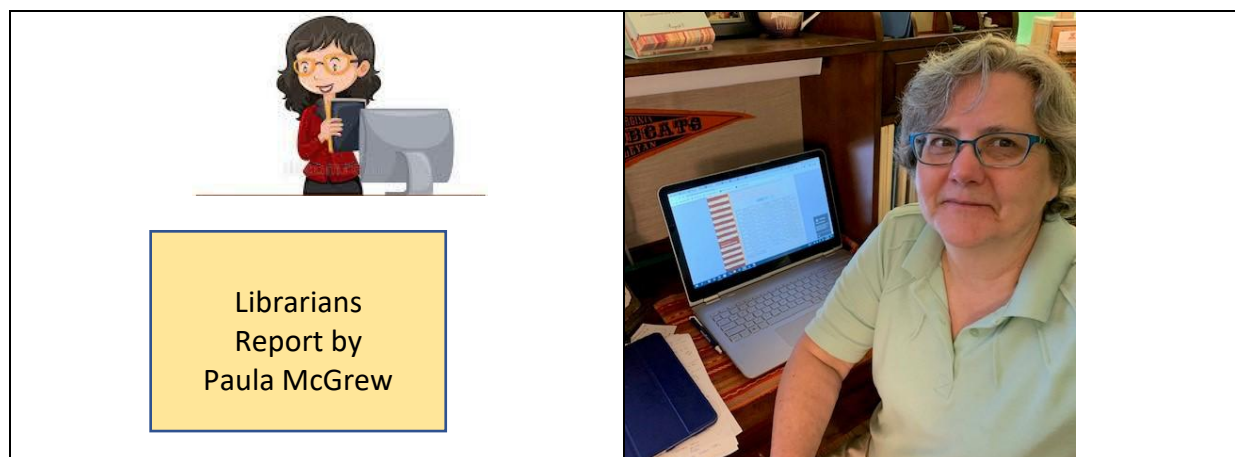
Wishing a holiday greeting to all HCPD Members and friends. I'm happy to announce that the Joyce and Joy endowment fund challenge has reached its goal. We now have a \$20,000.00 certificate of deposit at 5 ½% interest at Edward Jones. Hopefully this will help generate a bit of interest income to help with expenses and supplement the dues and fundraising. This is why we created the Joyce and Joy challenge. There is no steady source of income for maintaining our library. Membership, donations, book sales and fundraisers are our only support.

We have been blessed with members whose concern for the library has created and supported a place where almost anyone whose ancestors passed through Central West Virginia can find genealogy and historical information.

Those of you who donated during 2023, please don't forget to claim it on your taxes and if you are finding that you still need to make another gift for 2023 there is still time. We are a 501c 3 non-profit and your donation is tax deductible.

May you have a blessed holiday and best wishes for a very happy New Year.

Doris Dean
HCPD President



We have a Zoom Member Meeting almost every month. We send out an email with the link when we schedule a meeting. On Oct. 21st we had 11 people gathered on Zoom from 6 states and 2 countries to catch up on the latest from HCPD. Yes, we had a first-ever attendee from New South Wales, Australia. So great to visit with Cynthia Parrill! Others were joining from California, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Patty reported on several successful fundraisers and upcoming events.

Paula shared about a new project on Flickr, new additions to the Internet Archive, and updates from the Library Catalog project on the HCPD website. See below the notes.

How do you use it?

- Go to our page <https://www.flickr.com/photos/198892717@N02/>. You can search in the box in the upper right corner. This is where all of the tagging is going to pay off!! Try starting with these searches: Floods, Hacker, Log Cabins, Swisher How can you participate with your own photos?

- If you have decided to create your own free account, you can upload them there. ● If you have a few photos that you would like to email to hcpd2020@gmail.com, I will put them on our page. Be sure to provide all of the information that you can.

- If you have more than you can email, you can put them on a jump drive and send them to us. We will be glad to provide you with a worksheet for helping with identification. The clearer that information is, the sooner we can get it up on Flickr.

- If you have more information about a photo that is already up on Flickr, you can add it in the comments or email hcpd2020@gmail.com. Each photo will have an ID number in the description so we can be sure to add your information to the right one!

HCPD Webpage ● On the Journals page, you can now click on specific issues AND you can get to the linked Table of Contents (TOC) ● Be sure not to miss the Blog – where I highlight the topics that we have discussed during the HCPD Chats....including links!

● **Be aware that we will be changing web page providers in the next couple of months.** We will be sure to update you when that happens, so stay tuned!

HCPD on Internet Archive (as of October 21, 2023) Go to <https://archive.org> and search for Hacker's Creek Pioneer to get to all of these

● Don Norman Files ● Hacker's Creek Journals ● Lewis County Teachers 1873-1934, by Winneta Kennedy ● Hacker's Creek Circuit ● Family Bible Records -James Elmore Snider ● Harrison County Personal Property Tax Lists 1796-1806 ● More added as we come across items in our files or collections: for example, Hacker's Creek Watershed: Harrison, Lewis, and Upshur Counties - which was found in one of the files of photographs



meet our MEMBERS


Even though HCPD library is located in central WV, we have members all over the U.S. We thought that it would be enjoyable to “meet” our members. Therefore, this is a regular feature of the Journal to introduce members to each other. If you would like to be included, please send a brief bio and a picture or two to the Journal editor, Carol White, at cjswhite@gmail.com. We won't, of course, include all of them at once. But, it will be interesting to see who is featured in the next issue of the Journal. Maybe it will be you!



My name is Susan Lynn Tucker. My maiden name is Wyatt. I was born in Roane County, actually in a small hospital that does not exist today. I have lived in Roane County all of my life except for 6 months. My first job was during the summer while in Spencer High School, I worked as a soda jerk. I made sandwiches and fountain drinks, like cherry coke, and milkshakes. I married my high school sweetheart, and we have one son. My husband, Larry, passed away in 2019. He retired in 2005, and we enjoyed many years of retirement.


After finishing high school, I attended and graduated from Mountain State College. I studied accounting and computers. The very first computer used punch cards and was the size of a desk. Oh how things have changed. I worked most of my life for Burke-Parsons-Bowlby, a manufacturer of treated cross ties, mine timbers, railroad/road crossings and my specialty,

railroad bridges, especially those in curves. My first job was inventory clerk and later I was promoted to Pre-Fab Supervisor, their first female supervisor. After another company automated bridge ties, our work grew less and less. I later went to work for a friend and owner of a Chevrolet garage, bookkeeping, of course. After my husband retired, we delivered vehicles and picked up vehicles from other dealerships. My genealogy obsession did not start until after my mother passed away in 1996. She was the record keeper of the family. My mother hand wrote all her records, I use a computer. My family database has over 15,000 individuals. My Ancestry tree has over 13,000 individual records. Around 2008 I joined Roane County Historical Society and have held several offices. I am the current Recording Secretary. Sometime after that, I started attending Hacker's Creek Gatherings and joined as a member. Currently I'm the Vice President of HCPD. In 2019, I helped organize Tanner's Cross Roads DAR Chapter. I have held two offices, Registrar and Treasurer.

		As we learn about our ancestors' lives, they become real to us, not just names on a page. We thought that it would be interesting to learn about world events occurring in a decade of our history. Which of your ancestors were living during the featured decade? How old were they then? At what stage were their lives? As you read over these events, try to imagine the effect they might have had on your ancestors.
Year	1890s	event
1890	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sherman Anti-Trust Act became law • Artist Vincent Van Gogh died in France at the age of 37 after shooting himself • Congress designated Yosemite a <u>National Park</u>. • <u>The Wounded Knee Massacre</u> took place in South Dakota 	
1891	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City</u> began using the traditional route up Fifth Avenue. • Carnegie Hall opened in New York City. • The character Sherlock Holmes, created by <u>Arthur Conan Doyle</u>, appeared in The Strand magazine for the first time. 	
1892	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writer and naturalist <u>John Muir</u> founded the Sierra Club • <u>The Homestead Steel Strike</u> in western PA turned into a ferocious day-long battle between Pinkerton men and townspeople. • Andrew Borden and his wife were murdered in MA, & his daughter <u>Lizzie Borden</u> was <u>accused</u> of the crime. Later 	

	<p>acquitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grover Cleveland won the U.S. presidential election, becoming the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms.
1893	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Rutherford B. Hayes</u>, who became president following the <u>disputed election of 1876</u>, died in Ohio at the age of 70. <u>Thomas A. Edison</u> finished building his first motion picture studio. The 1893 World's Fair, known as the Columbian Exposition, opened in Chicago. A decline in the New York stock market triggered the <u>Panic of 1893</u>, which led to an economic depression second only to the Great Depression of the 1930s. The British public was outraged when <u>Arthur Conan Doyle</u> published a story in which Sherlock Holmes apparently died.
1894	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Coxey's Army</u>, a march to protest unemployment that was largely the result of the Panic of 1893, departed from Ohio on its way to Washington, D.C. <u>The Pullman Strike</u> began, and spread throughout the summer before being put down by federal troops. Congress designated the first Monday of September as a legal holiday, Labor Day
1895	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future president <u>Theodore Roosevelt</u> became president of the New York City police board President Grover Cleveland arranged for a <u>White House Christmas tree lit</u> with Edison electric bulbs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, arranged in his will for his estate to fund the Nobel Prize.
1896	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first modern Olympic games, the idea of <u>Pierre de Coubertin</u>, are held in Athens, Greece. William McKinley was elected president
1897	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Klondike Gold Rush began in Alaska
1898	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The American battleship U.S.S. Maine exploded in the harbor at Havana, Cuba, a mysterious event that will lead to the United States going to war with Spain. At the <u>Battle of San Juan Hill</u>, Col. Theodore Roosevelt and

	his "Rough Riders" charged Spanish positions.
1899	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsboys in New York City went on strike for several weeks in a significant action related to child labor.

	<i>Calliope's Corner</i>	<p>This feature allows members to share their original poetry and prose. Even though it would be quite appropriate for the themes to be somewhat related to ancestors, history, genealogy and such, that is not a hard-fast requirement. This is your chance to be in the spotlight by sharing your thoughts and feelings expressed in writing.</p>
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Rear-View Mirror

It was a one-room country school with a pot-bellied stove in the corner for heat and a path to an outhouse for our restroom. With his foot resting on a chair, the teacher in his loud, husky voice read a few verses from the Bible to us each day and ended by singing, "O, the West Virginia hills, how majestic and how grand."

One spring afternoon, the teacher saw my dad approaching the school on his way home from work. The teacher dismissed me early so that I could ride home with Dad instead of walking. However, Dad had already passed the front of the school by the time I made my exit.

Many times, I have returned from work just as my children walked home from the bus stop and caught a ride with me. At those times, I would recall that day years earlier, my bare feet pounding the dusty dirt road as I ran as fast as my little legs could carry me to catch up with my dad. I repeatedly said, even though I knew he couldn't hear my pleas, "Daddy, look in your rear-view mirror, and you'll see me!" Finally, he did and stopped the car to wait for me to catch up with him.

We each relive moments of our childhood through our children. All too often, the words we speak echo in our mind in another's voice. Or, a scene, a smell, a touch, a song brings to our conscious level of awareness a long-forgotten episode from our past, and we smile as we recall "better days." Not only do these memories enrich our lives, but they also provide the fabric of our wisdom and the fiber of our empathy.

All of us need to look into our rear-view mirrors and see the barefoot child trying to catch up with us. - Carol Whit

What's in a Name

Note: The plan is to make this an ongoing feature of the Journal where information about West Virginia surnames may be included. If you have something to contribute to this feature, please email it to the editor, Carol White (see page 1).

Burns—Irish, descriptive. Synonymous with Byrnes or O'Byrne. "Dweller at a brook" from Middle English *bourne*

Chambers—English. Occupational. A chamber attendant, or one in charge of the treasury chamber. It is from the Old French *chamber*.

Lemasters—French or Swiss. Descriptive. "The master"

Stephens—English. Patronymic. "The son of Stephen"

The Stories of a West Virginia Doctor

By Harold D. Almond, M.D.

Late in the summer of 1951, I treated a patient who had typhoid. I took my typhoid booster shot and immediately got a reaction. My hands and feet swelled and I hurt in most of my joints, but especially in my buttocks whenever I hit a hole in the country roads. I was in real misery.

I planned to take a night off and recover, but then a call came from Wildcat.

A Lewis County doctor had delivered a baby three days previously and the mother wasn't doing well. I couldn't find what the problem was, but the son was begging for help. I told him I couldn't walk more than fifty feet. He said I wouldn't have to walk at all.

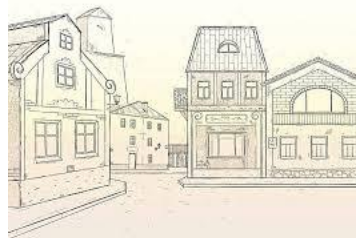
Off to Wildcat, I used one swollen hand at a time to steer. I drove slower than usual because my sitter was aggravated with each bump, especially the road past Ireland and Babylon. The night was beautiful, almost a full moon.

I met the patient's son at the bridge crossing the Little Kanawha River, and he hopped in my jeep. We drove down a field for a couple of hundred yards. The road dead-ended at the river. That was the end of my ride. We rowed across the river; then we started walking up a poorly defined path straight up the mountain. The lad took my doctor bags and pulled me up and up. I hurt all over. He said there were no wildcats around, but I jumped almost out of my skin when a hoot owl screamed out in dark shadows. My shoes wouldn't fit and my swollen feet hurt. I hurt in my ribs when I breathed. All my hiking days on the Appalachian Trail were easier than

that quarter of a mile uphill walk that night. The dig we met at the house barked and growled, but wagged his tail and was friendly when the lad whistled back to him.

The baby was a girl and was healthy, but the mother had already expired by the time I finally arrived, apparently from a post-partum hemorrhage.

Hamlets and Ghost Towns



Ireland, West Virginia

Each town and community have their own story, their own history. If you know something about the history/stories of the small hamlets and ghost towns in the counties of North Central WV, please share them with the Journal. This will make very interesting reading.

Ireland is situated in the southern end of Lewis County in Collins Settlement District on the extreme head of the right fork of the West Fork River.

The history of this little village actually started in 1729 in the Country, Ireland, when a son Andrew Wilson, was born in Erin. This Andrew Wilson emigrated to America in the Early 1800's. At the Lewis county Court House there is a deed which states that Andrew Wilson and a John G. Wilson purchased 600 acres from a Benjamin Willard on the right hand fork of the West Fork River in 1827. A deed also shows that Andrew and his wife, Elizabeth, sold some land in 1813 and in 1839. In 1839, the land was sold to Robert Clark and first school in the community was built there (called Clark School). The 1820 census shows eight persons living in the Andrew Wilson household.

One of Andrew's children was named Matilda E. Wilson. On March 2, 1843, she married Michael Kelly. Her marriage certificate was signed by a Washington M. Wilson who swore she was over 21 years of age. The 1850 census shows Matilda (40 years) and Michael (34 years) having five others living in the household: Mary E. Kelly, 6 years; John A. Kelly, 4 years; Margaret J. Kelly, 2 years; March Wilson, 35 years and Hannah Cutlip, 16 years.

Because of Andrew Wilson's very advanced age and his native country, his nickname in the community became "OLD IRELAND". In November, 1843, one day after he voted for James K. Polk for President, Andrew Wilson died at the age of 114 years.

In 1847, when the first Post Office was being located in the community, they named it Ireland in honor of Andrew Wilson.

In the community of Ireland, you will find many people with Irish names, an organization called *Shamrock Extension Homemakers Club*, and an annual deluge of cards and letters to be postmarked "Ireland" for St. Patrick's Day. And so it has been for several decades.

The IRISH SPRING FESTIVAL is celebrated every March 17 in Ireland, WV. It commemorates their Irish heritage and celebrates the vernal equinox. Green can be seen everywhere. The *Shamrock Extension Homemakers Club* organizes the annual event.

Source: <https://www.angelfire.com/wv/irishspringfestival/irelandhistory.html>

Copley, (Part 5)

By Nelson F. Lough

Disclaimer: Due to the fact that the material for this research was collected mainly by oral interviews and compiled by one not familiar with the techniques and methods of the oil business, the information contained herein cannot be said to be valid or completely true and should not be used for any purpose other than that intended by the author; to show the effect the booming of an oil derrick had on a small, quiet farming community.

Note: Mr. Lough wrote this while attending Glenville State College in 1966 by assignment from history teacher, Dr. Jones. He was to write an original story concerning the history of an area around central WV. His wife, Joyce Moneypenny Lough, was born and raised in the small community of Copley, Lewis Co, WV. Since they were living at Copley at the time, it seemed appropriate to Nelson to use "The effects of the Copley No. 1 Oil Well on the Copley Community" as the title and the center focus for his research.

THE COPLEY E.U.B. CHURCH

In 1903, the community of Copley became vitally concerned about the spiritual fitness of the individuals in the homes of the little valley. Two prominent women of the community were Mrs. Chancy Norton and Mrs. Joseph Owens, decided to try to raise enough money to build a much-needed church. After Newt Turner donated a lot on which to build the church, the entire community joined in the fund-raising activities such as suppers. The women gave their untiring efforts preparing the suppers, while the men prepared themselves for the job of building the church when the necessary materials were provided. In 1904 the church was completed, four years after the coming of the Copley well which had gained for Copley this increase of population.

Perhaps, to the unconcerned of the community, the structure was only a crude building with window blinds and very uncomfortable board seats. But to those who had worked long and hard hours to see the church completed, the building was a place where they could fellowship together to honor God and to learn more about Him and their fellowman.

Soon after the church was dedicated as the “Copley United Brethern Church” an evangelist came and held a six weeks revival meeting. In this meeting, the hard-toiling Christians were richly rewarded by the many people who dedicated their life to Christ at the old-fashioned hand carved altar. The new church was off to a wonderful beginning with 41 new members. As they placed their money into the collection plate at the door, they began looking forward to the fulfillment of another dream. In 1904 their first dream had come true, but it was not until 1946 that the new dream was fulfilled when the valley rang with the sound of the new church bell in the recently constructed steeple.

In 1945 the old gas lights were taken down and the church was wired for electricity. Later the interior of the church was remodeled to give the pulpit more space. This extra space was a great help when the annual Christmas program was presented by the youth of the church. The first Youth Fellowship was organized in 1959 and in 1960, the old crude seats were replaced by modern comfortable pews and the gas stoves were exchanged for a new floor furnace. Through the years, the church building has been repeatedly added to, while the congregation has been declining from an estimated 60 persons in 1904 to an average of nine at present.

THE STONEMASONS’S ART

By Ralph V. Cutlip

Many of the immigrants coming to the New World knew the art of stone masonry.

In Appalachia one may often see prime examples of masonry in stone. They are as permanent as the natural land scape. Being part of our natural landscape, they excite little curiosity. Yet, newly created, they aroused uncommon interest and wonderment.

The Appalachian pioneer used every natural resource to his advantage. There is an old adage that necessity is the mother of invention. Both wood and stone were readily accessible and they were used to construct masonry useful things. The uses of wood is another chapter in pioneering. The uses of stone masonry is a distinct chapter in its own right.

Nearly every pioneer settlement had its own stone mason. All tools he needed to carry from job to job were a short-handled sledge hammer, two or three pick hammers of different sizes, a straight edge, and 18-inch steel square, two or three dozen small steel wedges and two or three rock chisels of different sizes.

The mason’s first job might have been to construct a foundation for a house. A long time ago, people had learned that “white ants” (termites) devoured wood supports under a house. Stone pillars provided eternal protection against weather and insect infestation.

Nearly every hillside had natural outcroppings of gray sandstone. If there was no showing of stone, a builder dug into the earth. Until he found solid rock.

Once the site of a likely quarry was located, the stonemason cleared the face of the rock ledge, hacked off some sample pieces to determine the quality of the stone and its striations,

Satisfied that he had located the kind of rock he needed, the stonecutter began his primary operation.

After removing the surface soil, he dressed the rock until he had a level surface. This process required frequent testing with a straightedge. A vertical face to the stone was obtained by chipping away all irregularities down to the bottom of the excavation.

Before attempting to dislodge his first piece of building stone, the workman, using his straightedge, drew a line with a pick. The next step was to etch a shallow trench, following the tracing he had made. Then he dug shallow pits in the trench of equidistance of less than a foot apart. Into each pit he set a wedge.

Splitting off a slab of stone successfully was an artistic triumph. The stonecutter measured into his calculations extra width and length to compensate for any uneven cleavage. Splitting rock was not so easy as splitting wood. An axman knew that in splitting wood, his cleavage would follow the natural grain of the wood. The Stoneman tried to follow the same natural principles. Occasionally he had to expect some wastage. Stone had fault lines and didn't always offer clear-cut cleavage.

Nevertheless, a stone mason from the time he opened a quarry quickly learned how to mine the sstone properly.

Using the wedges carefully was important in quarrying stone. The stonecutter moved along his patterned lines, tapping each wedge gently. When he felt them tighten, he knew that he was making progress. Back and forth he moved, tapping gently...gently...carefully to increase the pressure along the cleavage lines. In a few minutes the mason sensed that the stone would split satisfactorily. He might have used a few wood gluts to hasten the process. He might have smiled when the rock split according to his calculations.

The final step was to size and dress the building stones. The mason might have had several uses for the finished stones. His first assignment might have been to prepare as set of foundation piers. He might even have been preparing to build a stone house. Several stone houses in Appalachia, built over a hundred years ago, are still standing in prime condition.

He might have wished to build a chimney. Frequently, he built a chimney for a two-story house, with apertures for four fireplaces, two back to back on each floor to heat adjoining rooms. The top of the chimney required a one-piece rectangular collar that forever bonded the cap stones in place.

Building stones were shaped to precise sizes. Following his specifications, the stonemason might have built a solid foundation for a house, including a cellar.

Dressing a stone required the patience of Job. Using a light pick, the workman hewed at the stone until he had achieved a smooth surface on all faces. It is a well-known fact that the ancient Incas could sculpt stone and set it into place so snugly and tight that one could not insert a knife blade into the crevices between the stones. Indeed, the ancient Greeks might have envied the Incas and the Appalachian stonecutters.

In Appalachia today, one may see an occasional lonely chimney standing in a clearing on a hillside. A fire had left it standing tall and straight, and eternal remind of the stonemason's art.

Source: *Journal of The Braxton Historical Society*, Vol. 18, No. 1, March 1990

2023 Gathering



Congratulations to Andrea Lamb, the 2023 recipient of the Margaret Sleeth Hacker Award.

Andrea dressed in period attire and shared historic stories at The Gathering

Congratulations to Susan Tucker (right), the 2023 recipient of the John Hacker Award. Left is Doris Dean, President of HCPD





Pictured are those who attended the necrology service and the banquet on Saturday Evening

Lorilla Hornbrook Bullard Tower

Lorilla Bullard Tower was a most unusual woman for her time. This profile is intended to broaden our perspective of Lorilla. Her inclusion in this collection is made upon the basis of her impact upon the Garrett County health care, human services, and education systems, key components of the economy, and not only for her important role in women's social reforms.

She has been well-recognized in Maryland for her leadership of the suffrage movement by the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and was even portrayed in the Women's Monologues by Betty Pritt, a member of the AAUW-Garrett Branch and Youghiogheny Glades Chapter, NSDAR. Lorilla was honored by Hood College in 1951. She was more recently inducted into the Garrett County Women's Hall of Fame.

Lorilla was born on May 15, 1870 in Middleport, Ohio. Her mother was Lorilla Frances Hornbrook Bullard, and her father was George R. Bullard. Her siblings included Dr. Rachael Hornbrook Bullard Staunton and Dr. Thurl Emil Bullard, an Oakland dentist and early Will o' the Wisp owner.

Like many residents of Mt. Lake Park during its Chautauqua era, her roots were in Wheeling. In 1881, her mother built and managed The Allegheny House, a summer boarding hotel.

Lorilla is well known for her tremendous community work in Oakland, but her life experiences were so much more complex than expected. In a time of limited career opportunities for women, Lorilla had practiced medicine for ten years prior to her marriage.

After completing school in Wheeling, she and sister went to Philadelphia to the medical school. *"At the commencement exercises of the Women's Medical College in Philadelphia held at the American Academy of Philadelphia on Tuesday, among the fifty-two graduates were two Wheeling young ladies, Misses Rachel Hornbrooke Bullard and Lorilla Frances Bullard. Miss Lorilla F. Bullard was awarded the Gold Medal offered by the professor of surgery for the best report of the surgical clinics."*

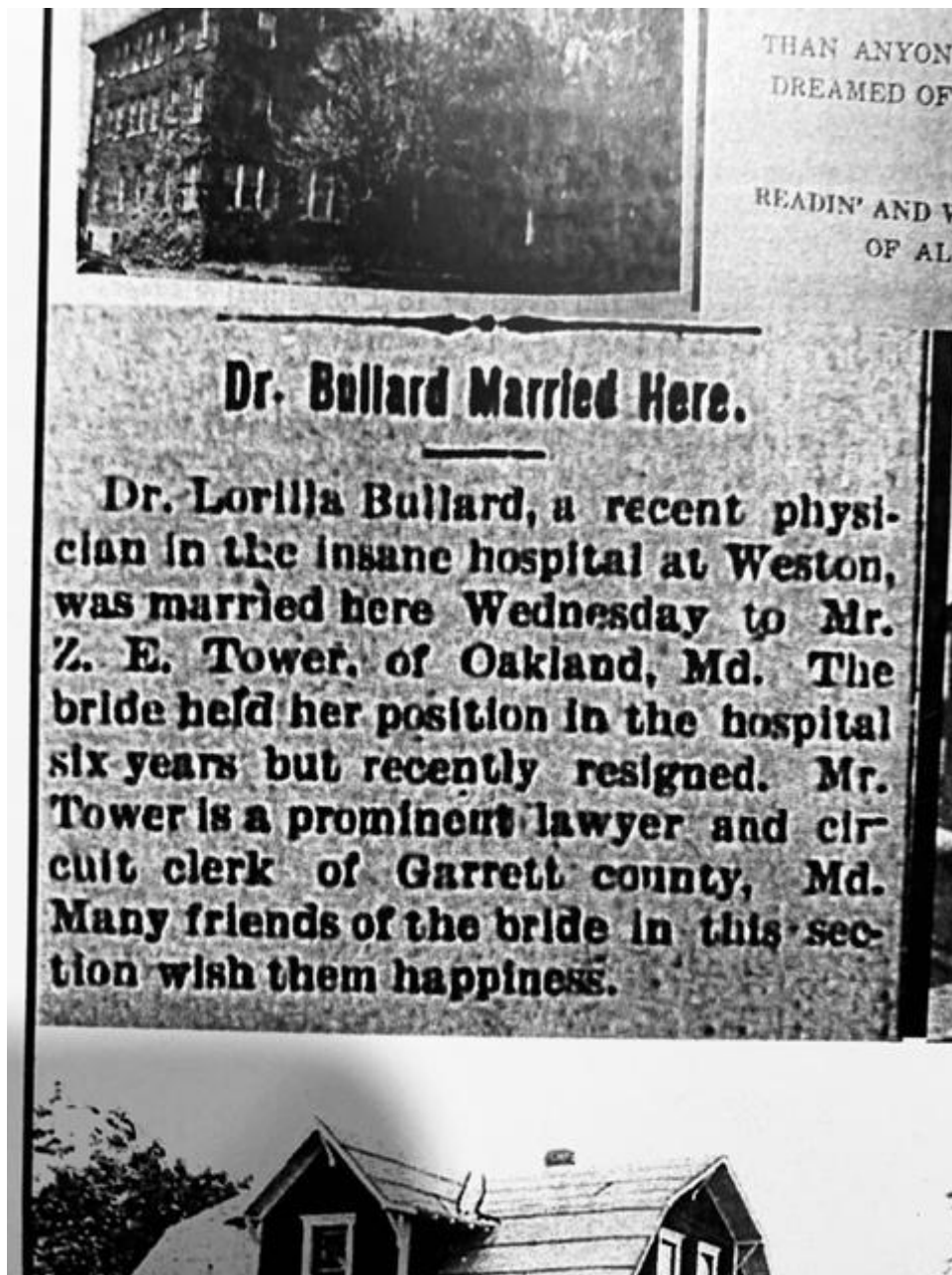
Lorilla worked as a physician for ten years, and six of those years as physician for the Female Department of the Weston, West Virginia Asylum for the Insane, which housed "nearly 1,000 unfortunates." Not only did she witness the behavior of the residents, but she saw a lot of political infighting over leadership. *"Dr. Lorilla Bullard of Parkersburg, has been selected as an assistant physician in the female department and will enter upon her duties May first. The next board, which is Republican at its June meeting is expected to fill up the institution with hungry Republicans, and we shall see whether Republicans can better provide for the unfortunate inmates than has been done by present management."*

Then on February 14 (Valentine's Day), 1902, *"Dr. Lorilla Bullard, a recent physician in the insane hospital at Weston, was married here Wednesday to Mr. ZE (sic) Tower of Oakland Maryland. The bride held her position in the hospital six years but recently resigned. Mr. Tower is a prominent lawyer and circuit clerk of Garrett County, Md. Many friends of the bride in this section wish them happiness."* They ultimately had two sons: Thurl W. and Roger H. Tower, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

When Lorilla married and became a Garrett County resident in 1903, she dropped the title of "Doctor" from her name, but she remained a registered physician for life. Her energy, education, and experience were then used to become a strong civic leader. Lorilla served on Oakland City Council. She was a charter member and President of Oakland Civic Club in 1911 and helped to develop the first Garrett County public library in 1915. She was a Trustee of Garrett County Public Schools and first President of the Parent-Teacher Association. She was Executive Secretary of the Garrett County Children's Aid Society, and she worked with the Maryland Children's Aid Society to find homes for homeless children until 1939, when her work was taken over by the county welfare board.

Lorilla's involvement in shaping the Garrett County health care system is strong. She was involved in procuring initial funds for the first Garrett County Health Department, and she helped to develop the first Garrett County Memorial Hospital, where she became a permanent member of the Board of Directors. She served 41 years as Chair of American Red Cross.

In 1963, Lorilla died at age 92, at her home in Oakland. She is buried with her husband in the historic Oakland Cemetery.

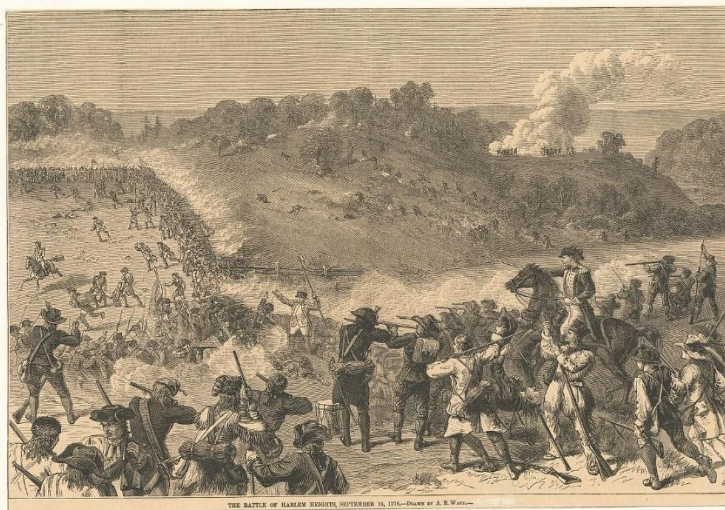


Story submitted by HCPD Member Beverly Robinson

JOHN THOMAS BELKNAP AND NAOMI DARE

By Mary S. Glass

John Thomas Belknap was born in 1755 in Ulster County, New York, the son of Thomas Belknap III and Melvina Dobbins. Most records refer to him as Thomas Belknap, but a few give the name of John. While a resident of Kingston, Ulster County, Thomas served five months as a private in Captain Stewart's Company, Colonel Dubois' New York Regiment. According to a deposition given by Cornelius Quick in 1839 in Ulster County, Thomas served five months in the militia in Captain Israel Smith's Company beginning in July 1776. They rendezvoused at Kingston in Ulster County and traveled by water to New York and then marched to Harlem Heights [Harlem Heights] where he was in a skirmish with the British who were driven to their ships. The Battle of Harlem Heights as it is called took place on September 16th and was the first success of the Revolutionary War directly under General Washington's command and boosted the morale of the American ranks. (See Wikipedia)



There was little fighting the next month. After learning that the British were trying to trap them in Manhattan, the patriots marched to White Plains where they engaged in another battle with the British. The fighting was intense on October 28th, and the British aided by Hessians prevailed. Belknap retreated with others in his unit to Fishkill, New York. There he was discharged in the last part of December, having served his five months. He then returned to Ulster County.

In the spring of 1777, Belknap reenlisted or was drafted and served three months in Captain Hasbrouck's Company, Colonel Pawling's New York Regiment. He went to Fort Montgomery where he served for three months. He again enlisted in the fall of 1777 and served in Captain Charles Brodhead's Company, Colonel Graham's New York regiment. He took shipping to Albany and marched to Saratoga where he served the term of three months and was present when General Burgoyne surrendered his army there on October 17th. News of Burgoyne's surrender brought the French into the war to aide the Americans. Belknap was discharged, having served in Captain Charles Brodhead's Company.

Belknap again enlisted in 1778 and served in Captain Weissenfel's New York Regiment. According to Quick, Belknap enlisted for a term of nine months in a company of Rangers in Colonel Hornbeck's regiment and that during intervals he was engaged in scouting parties on the frontier in the townships of Rochester and Warwarsing.

On 17 October 1789 he married at the age of 34 in the old Pine Street Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, eighteen-year-old Naomi Dare. Naomi had been born on 16 September 1771 in Penn Township, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her parents were John Dare and Elizabeth Brooks.

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PHILA. 517

1789, Sept. 19, Beler, Hannah, and Bernard Cassiday.
1789, Oct. 17, Belknap, Thomas, and Naomi Dare.

Thomas appeared in the 1790 census of Ulster County, New York. Their daughter, Nancy, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1793. A daughter, Jane, and future children were born in Pendleton County or Hampshire County, (West) Virginia, beginning in 1794. Records were sparse, especially in rural West Virginia. The census taker missed many families, and other documents were rare with the exception of some marriages and land and tax records. Much of the information gathered were from military records found at Fold 3.

According to military records, Thomas and his family were residing in Pendleton County, (West) Virginia, in 1810, but soon removed to Hampshire County which adjoins it. Based on Thomas Belknap's service a private under Captain Hornback for eight months during the Revolutionary War, he was receiving a pension by 4 March 1831. He was receiving a half-yearly allowance for his service of \$13.33. He died in Hampshire County, (West) Virginia, on 18 December 1835. In 1839, Naomi made a declaration to John B. White, clerk of Hampshire County in application for a widow's pension. Naomi was granted a widow's pension from her husband's service in the Revolutionary War at the rate of \$26.66 per annum. Her application was executed on 26 November 1839, at which time she was about 68 years of age and a resident of Hampshire County.

In 1851 she was living in Harrison County, (West) Virginia. It is interesting that Naomi was never listed on a census record. Naomi's widow pension certificate was displayed at the Department of the Interior on 17 November 1851 "for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the act approved March 3rd 1855." Naomi signed her name with her mark.

This declaration was presented by her daughter, Nancy Skidmore, and Nancy's husband's nephew who lived nearby:

"We Samuel Skidmore and Nancy Skidmore residents of the County of Braxton, the state of Virginia upon our oaths declare that the foregoing declaration was signed and acknowledged by Naomi Belknap in our Presence & that we know of our own Personal knowledge that she is the identical Person she represents herself to be, & the said Samuel Skidmore, states that He was well acquainted with the said Thomas Belknap as named in the foregoing declaration, and the said Naomi Belknap his widow about forty years ago, and I Nancy Skidmore declare that I was well acquainted with the said Thomas Belknap and the said Naomi Belknap about fifty years ago, and that the said Thomas Belknap and the

said Naomi Belknap cohabited together as husband and wife and raised a family of children, and that they saw Thomas Belknap died about fifteen or twenty years ago, the time they can't now state, and that the said Naomi Belknap is now a widow and they further state that the Pension certificate as copied in her foregoing declaration is a true copy having the same now before us for comparison."

Samuel Skidmore

Nancy Skidmore

Naomi died in Braxton County, (West) Virginia, where many of her children had settled. The appraisement bill of her estate was entered into the court records of Braxton County and is dated 17 February 1857:

160
 Appraisement Bill made this 17. day of February 1857. of Naomi Belknap deceased,
 one bond on John P. Byrne, the amount twenty three dollars and 75 cents due 10. day of January 1857. \$23.75
 one bond on John Morrison and Charles Molehen security, one hundred dollars due from date, this 20. day of August 1856, \$100.
 to be paid in yearly payments twenty five dollars a year,
 Thomas Carpenter
 Jordan Cogan
 John Skidmore
 Braxton County Court Clerk Office February 27. 1857.
 The appraisement bill of the personal estate of Naomi Belknap decd. was this day presented in said office & admitted to record.
 Test Jas P Byrne Clerk

Braxton County Will Book 2, page 160, found at

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9392-HYGV-F?i=98&wc=Q8BW-M6S%3A179688701%2C179735201&cc=1909099>

Three children are known to be the offspring of Naomi and Thomas: Nancy, Jane and Thomas, Jr., their births ranging from 1792 to 1797. They married in the fall of 1789. So few records were available, there is no way of knowing whether there were more offspring. Some family trees name other children: James Morgan Dare Belknap (1814 in Braxton County -1865 in California), Catherine in 1819, and Alice in 1829. Naomi would have been age 47-53 when these were born, making it unlikely that they are her children. Others have named additional children with no dates attached. No records of marriage nor death have been found for them.

1790 CENSUS OF NEW WINDSOR, ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

New Windsor 227										New Windsor 228									
Number of Families	Name of	Head of	Families	Free white males of 16 years and upwards	Free white males under 16 years	Free white females	Slaves	Indians	Others	Number of Families	Name of	Head of	Families	Free white males of 16 years and upwards	Free white males under 16 years	Free white females	Slaves	Indians	Others
110	Jacob Higgins			3	2	5				150	Robert Scott			3		2			
	Thomas Belknap			1							Benjamin Roman			2	4	3			
	John Wright			1	2	2					Rezia Coleman			1		4			
	Joseph Belknap			5	1	3		1			James Kennaghan			2	2	4			
	Jacob Mills			4	2	7					Charles Kennaghan			3	1	2			
	Sarah Belknap			2	2	5					Samuel Belknap			2	1	3			
	Joseph Ellison			1	2	3					Hugh Mc Gill			1	3	4			
	Enos Chandler			1	2	4					Thomas Grady			1		1			
	John Landon			1	1	3					John Patton			2	1	2			
	Francis Lusk			1	2	5					Jeduthan Belknap			2	1	5			
	Robert Johnston			2	2	4				150	George Humphrey			1	2	2			
	John Deniston			1	2	4					James Patton			2	1	7			
	John Woodruff			4	1	9					James Gillispie			1	3	3			
120	John Mc Connell			1	2	3					Alexander Lowry			1	1	3			
	Benjamin Woodruff			1		3					John Mc Glone			1		1			
	James Jennings			1		3					Francis Crawford			1	5	2		2	
	James Salto			1	1	1					Niles Cavan			1	1	5			
	Joseph Jones			2	2	3					David Cook			1		4			
	Isaac Meacham			3	1	1					William Cook			2	1	2			
	Michael Smith			3	2	2					Thomas Cook			1	4	5			
	Bradbury Green			1		3				170	Joseph Cook			2	2	4			
	William Grigg			3	2	4					Barbara Hagan				1	1			
	Isaiah Mathewson			4	4	2					Alexander Denniston			1	3	4		2	
130	William Salmon			2		1					George Denniston Junr			1	2	2			
	Benjamin Sprung			2	2	4					Daniel Anderson			2		3			
	Daniel Nicholson			2	3	3					William Moffat			1	1	4		1	
	John Wellings			3		1					Matthew Du Bois Junr			1	1	3			
	Mary Lusk				1	2					Joseph Willoughby			1		2			
	John Little			1	1	2					James Denniston			4	2	3		1	
	Thomas Marshall			1	2	2					Margaret Moffat			1	3	3		1	
	John Cunningham			1	1	4				180	Prince Danforth							0	
	Thomas M. Dowell			2	4	4					George Denniston Senr			3	3	3		1	
	James M. Dowell			1	4	3					James M. Deniston			3	2	5			
140	Thomas Nicholson			3	2	4					John Burnet			2	2	5			
	Archie M. Ray			1	1	2					Robert M. Burnet			1	2	2		1	
	Samuel Ray			1	1	4					James Clinton			3		6		13	
	William Gage			2	2	4		1			Agnes M. Glaughry			3	5	4		3	
	Thomas Lusk			1	3	3					David Scott			1	2	3			
	Daniel Clement			1	2	4		1			Alexander Fells			1	1	2		1	
	Francis Haines			2	1	2					William Scott			2		2		1	
	James Halwell			1		1				190	Isaac Moffat			1	5	4			
	Cornelius Van Adale			2	1	2					James Humphrey, the 1 st			1	1	3			
	Samuel Sprung			1	1	3					Total			66	69	181	9	26	
	Total			77	67	139		3											

LETTER FROM VETERANS ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THOMAS BELKNAP AND THOMAS BELKNAP, JR. TO MR. ANDREW SMITH

(Fold3, Thomas Belknap, Images 15-17)

XXXXXXXXXXXX

BA-J/ADY
Thomas Belknap WC 34297
and
Thomas Belknap W 5817

Mr. Andrew K. Smith
47 East South Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Thomas Belknap, also, War of 1812 record of a Thomas Belknap, both of Virginia.

The Revolutionary War records show only one Thomas Belknap and the War of 1812 records show that only one application for pension was made based upon service in that war of a Thomas Belknap, or that bounty land was allowed for any other than the record given below.

The data furnished you are obtained from papers on file in the respective claims.

Thomas Belknap
W.5817

While a resident of Kingston, Ulster County, New York, Thomas Belknap enlisted in July 1776 and served five months as a private in Captain Stewart's Company, Colonel Dubois' New York Regiment. He enlisted in the spring of 1777 and served three months in Captain John Hasbrouck's Company, Colonel Pawling's New York Regiment. He enlisted in the fall of 1777 and served three months in Captain Charles Brodhead's Company, Colonel Graham's New York Regiment. He enlisted in 1778 and served nine months in a company of Rangers in Colonel Hoornebeck's New York Regiment. He enlisted and served in Captain John L. Hardenburgh's Company, Colonel Frederick Weissenfel's New York Regiment, date and length of service not stated.

He died December 18, 1835 in Hampshire County, Virginia. The date and place of his birth are not stated and no reference is made to his parents.

no. no. 3230-100-55.

Thomas Belknap
W. C. 34297

Thomas Belknap, son of John Belknap, was born in Frederick County, Virginia, or Pendleton County, Virginia, some time between 1779 and 1797. The name of his mother is not stated.

He enlisted August 10, 1814 in Hampshire County, Virginia, and served as private in Captain William Neily's Company of Virginia Militia and was discharged November 10, 1814.

He moved from Hampshire County, Virginia, to Randolph County, Virginia, and later he moved to Braxton County, Virginia, (West Virginia).

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 10, 1871 while a resident of Braxton, ^{County} West Virginia, his post office address: Braxton Court House, Braxton County, West Virginia.

He also was allowed bounty land in full satisfaction, on account of his services in the War of 1812, on his application executed September 15, 1856 while a resident of Braxton County, Virginia.

He died November 30, 1883 on Cedar Creek, Otter

District, Braxton County, West Virginia.

Soldier married Mary or Polly Friend, date not given. She died March 4, 1850 in Braxton County.

Soldier married July 26, 1850 in Braxton County, Virginia, Miss Emsey Fisher. They were both then residents of Braxton County, Virginia.

Soldier's widow, Emsey Belknap, was allowed pension on her application executed March 11, 1885 while a resident of Braxton County, West Virginia, her post office address, Braxton Court House, West Virginia. In 1885 she stated she was between sixty and sixty-five years old.

In 1902 her post office address was Lloydsville, Braxton County, West Virginia.

She died March 2, 1907 at the home of her widowed daughter, her name and residence not stated.

Soldier's daughter, Luverna Belknap, was aged twenty-two years and his son, John Belknap, was aged twenty-five years in 1885 and their post office address was Chapel, Braxton County, West Virginia. There are no further family data.

For information in regard to the location of land you should apply to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, this city, and furnish that official the following data: Wt. No. 59406-160-55.

Very truly yours,

A. D. HILLER
Assistant to Administrator.

THOMAS BELKNAP MILITARY AND VETERANS RECORDS AT FOLD 3, IMAGES 1&2

(9-1776)

SERVICE

NUMBER

New York

Belknep, Thomas W. 5817

Naomi *BLH. 32230-160-55*

CONTENTS

32.950

Virginia

Thomas Belknep died

of *Harrison* in the State of *Virginia*

who was a *private* in the *Company* commanded

by *Captain* of the *Regt* commanded

by *Col* in the *Revolution*

for *eight months*

Inscribed on the Roll of *Shelling*

at the rate of *26* Dollars *66* Cents per annum,

to commence on the 4th day of March, 1831. *3 Chap 1st*

December 1835

Certificate of Pension issued the *25* day of *Nov.*

1857 and *Rec'd to*

S. Godwin Esq

Accords to the Act of *Present*

Small-amount allowance ending.

W. B. Wrightman { Revolutionary Claim, }
Clerk, { 1st Jan 7, 1832. }

Recorded by *W. B. Wrightman* Clerk,

Book *16* Vol. *16* Page *5*

DEPOSITION OF CORNELIUS QUICK IN ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, REGARDING
THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THOMAS BELKNAP

18 SEPTEMBER 1839

(Fold 3, Thomas Belknap, Images 42 A&B, 43 A&B and 44)

State of New York
Ulster County
I, Cornelius Quick of Rochester
in said County being duly sworn
deposes and says that he is aged eight & two
years that he was a soldier in the army
of the Revolution & in the latter part of
the month of July in the year 1776 this
deponent was called into the service of the
United States by authority of the Legislature
of the state of New York in a company of Militia
of said state for the term of five months in
the company of which Israel Smith was the
captain and the regiment commanded by Col.
Portland that said company first rendezvoused
at Kingston Ulster Co. N.Y. & from thence went
by water to New York from which marched
to Harlem heights where he was in a skirmish
with the British who were driven to their ship-
ping from thence marched to Kingsbridge
in Westchester County from thence to White
plains

with the British who were driven to their ships
 from thence marched to Kingsbridge
 in Westchester County from thence to White
 Plains where he was present in a battle and
 from thence marched to Fishkill where
 he was discharged having served five months
 The discharge took place the last of December
 in the year aforesaid that during the
 aforesaid service he was well acquainted
 with Thomas Belknap then of Ulster County
 New York state who was a private soldier
 in said service in the company of which
 one Stewart was captain in the Regiment
 under the command of Colonel DeBois
 and that said Belknap served the term
 of five months in the company aforesaid
 at the place last aforesaid
 The deponent further states that he
 himself was again drafted at Kingston in the
 spring of 1777 & went to Fort Mifflin

where he served three months in the company
 which Captain John Hasbrouck commanded
 under the command of Colonel Paulding and
 was discharged from the above mentioned service.
 The deponent states further that he was
 well acquainted with the aforesaid Belknap
 in the aforesaid place & knows that he
 served during the above term to wit three
 months under the same Captain & Colonel as aforesaid.
 The Deponent further states that he
 himself was again drafted at Rensselaer
 County state of New York during the fall
 of the aforesaid year to wit 1793.
 The deponent further states that he march-
 ed from the aforesaid place to the landing
 & took shipping to Albany from thence
 marched to Saratoga where he served
 the term of three months & was present at
 the taking of Burgoin at the close of which
 aforesaid service he was discharged having
 served in Captain Hadrick's company.

the taking of Burgoin at the close of which
afore said service he was discharged having
served in Captain Rodrights company under
the command of Colonel Graham and that
he was well acquainted with the said
Belknap of the afore said county & State
during the afore said term of service and
knows he was in the company commanded
by Capt Charles Brodhead in the afore said
regiment under the afore said Colonel Graham
and knows he served during the afore said
time to wit three months

The deponent further states that the
said Belknap after the campaign at
Saratoga the following to wit 1878, enlisted
for the term of nine months in a company
of Ranger's in Colonel Hornbeaks regiment
at which enlistment ~~he himself~~ ^{he himself} was present
and the deponent further states that during
intervals he was engaged in scouting parties
on the frontier in the townships of Rochester

to War was sick in Ulster County State of
New York concerning further services
of said Belknap the deponent further
saith not.

Subscribed and *Cornelius Quick*
sworn before me
this 18th day of September
1839
David Hoornbeek Justice of peace

I the undersigned Justice of the peace before whom
the aforesaid affidavit of Cornelius Quick was made
do certify that I am well acquainted with him
and believe him to be a man of truth and veracity
and his statements under oath to be entitled to full
credit and belief
David Hoornbeek Justice of peace

TRANSCRIPT OF DEPOSITION OF CORNELIUS QUICK

Transcribed by Mary Glass

Cornelius Quick of Rochester in said County do bring duly sworn deposition says that he is aged eighty two years that he was a soldier in the army of the Revolution & in the latter part of the month of July in the year 1776 this deponent was called into the service of the United States by authority of the Legislature of the state of New York in a company of Militia of said state for the term of five months in the company of which Isreal [sic] Smith the captain of the regiment commanded by Col. Cortland that said company first rendezvoused at Kingston Ulster County & from then we went by water to New York from which we marched to Harlan [Harlem] heights where he was in a skirmish with the British who were driven to their shipping from thence marched to Kingsbridge [Kingston bridge] in West Chester [Westchester] County from thence to White plains [Plains] where he was present in a battle and from thence marched to Fishkill where he was discharged having served five months The discharge took place the last of December in the year aforesaid that during the aforesaid service he was well acquainted with Thomas Belknap then of Ulster County New York state who was a private soldier in said service in the company of which one Stewart was captain in the Regiment under the command of

Colonel Dubois and that said Belknap served the term of five months in the company aforesaid at the place last aforesaid

The deponent further states that he himself was again drafted at Kingston in the spring of 1777 & went to Fort Montgomery which Captain Hasbrouck commanded under the command of Colonel Paulding and was discharged from the above mentioned service. The deponent states further that he was well acquainted with the aforesaid Belknap in the aforesaid place & knows that he served during the above term to wit three months under the same Captain & Colonel as aforesaid

The Deponent further stated that he himself was again drafted at Kingston Ulster County state of New York during the fall of the aforesaid year to wit 1777

The Deponent further states that he marched from the aforesaid place to the landing & took shipping to Albany from thence marched to Saratoga where he served the term of three months & was present at the taking of Burgnoine [Burgoyne] at the close of which aforesaid service he was discharged having served in Captain Hartright's company under the command of Colonel Graham and that he was well acquainted with the said Belknap of the aforesaid county and state during the aforesaid term of service and know he was in the company commanded by Captain Charles Brodhead in the aforesaid regiment under the aforesaid Colonel Graham and knows he served during the aforesaid time to wit three months

The deponent further states that the said Belknap after the campaign at Saratoga the following to wit 1778 enlisted & served for the term of six months in a company of Rangers in Colonel Hornbeck's regiment at which enlistment he himself was present and the deponent further states that during intervals he was engaged in scouting parties on the frontier in the township of Rochester to Warwarsinck [Warwarsing] in Ulster County State of New York concerning further services of said Belknap the deponent further saith not.

Subscribed and

Sworn before me

This 18th day of September

1839

David Hoornbeck Justice of Peace



I the undersigned justice of the peace before whom the aforesaid affidavit of Cornelius Quick was made do certify that I am well acquainted with him and believe him to be a man of truth and veracity and his statements under oath ____ entitled to full credit and belief.

David Hoornbeck, Justice of peace

DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO NAOMI BELKNAP RECEIVING A PENSION FOR HER
HUSBAND'S SERVICE IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
DEPOSITION OF NAOMI BELKNAP IN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, (WEST) VIRGINIA 26 NOVEMBER
1839

(Fold3, Thomas Belknap, Images 8A&B)

State of Virginia to wit
On the 26 day of November 1839 personally
appeared before the County Court of Hampshire being a
Court of record Naomi Belknap widow of Thomas Belknap
and a resident of said County of Hampshire and State
of Virginia aged about about 68 years who being first
duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make
the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit
of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July
4 1836: That she is the widow of Thomas Belknap who
was a private in the Army of the Revolution, that she
has borne her said husband often for he has passed
between fifteen months and two years, ~~the further~~
states that she has no personal knowledge of his service
but has often heard him speak of it. She further
declares that she was married to the said Thomas
Belknap ~~about~~ fifty one years ago and herewith
files a part of her certificate of marriage the not having
been lost a marriage this certificate was given her in the
City of Philadelphia that her said husband the
aforesaid Thomas Belknap died on the 18 December
1835 and that she has remained a widow ever since
that period as under more fully appears by reference to
the proof hereto annexed

Naomi Belknap
Widow

Seem to be submitted on the day & year above written
before the County Court of Hampshire

Naomi & Naomi Darg, both of the City of
Hampshire, the undersigned for
the purpose of the above stated purpose.
by me, J. B. Duffield, 1839.

Sub. John B. Duffield to be
County Clerk

TRANSCRIPT OF ABOVE DEPOSITION**Transcribed by Mary Glass**

State of Virginia to wit

On the 26 day of November 1839 personally appeared before the County Court of Hampshire being a court of record Naomi Belknap widow of Thomas Belknap dec^d, a resident of said county of Hampshire and state of Virginia aged about 62 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her own oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4 1836: That she is the widow of Thomas Belknap who was a private in the army of the revolution, that she has heard her said husband often say he had served between eighteen months and two years, she further states that she has no personal knowledge of his service but has often heard him speak of it. She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Belknap fifty-one years ago and herewith files a part of her certificate of marriage the rest having been lost or mislaid this certificate was given her in the city of Philadelphia – that her said husband the aforesaid Thomas Belknap died on the 18 December 1835 and that she has remained a widow ever since that _____ as _____ more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

her

Naomi + Belknap

Mark

**STATEMENT GIVEN BY CATHARINE TEATER REGARDING
THOMAS AND NAOMI BELKNAP**

(Fold3 – Thomas Belknap, Image 5A)

*I, Catharine Teater of Harrison County Virginia,
aged sixty nine years, make oath that in the
year eighteen hundred & ten, I became acquainted
with Thomas Belknap and Naomi Belknap
his wife and a daughter of theirs named Nancy.
That said Thomas Belknap & Naomi then lived to-
gether and had a family of children of different
ages. That at that time, viz: 1810, said Nancy was
a young woman of at least eighteen years of age.
And that she still knows said Naomi, who is
the widow of Thomas Belknap aforesaid, and ^{she} now
resides in Harrison County Virginia, but that
in 1810, they lived in Pendleton County Virginia.
In presence of John Harrison } Catharine X Teater
Virginia, Harrison County to wit: mark*

I, Catharine Teater of Harrison County Virginia aged sixty nine years, make oath that in the year eighteen hundred & ten I became acquainted with Thomas Belknap and Naomi Belknap his wife and a daughter of theirs named Nancy. That said Thomas Belknap & Naomi then lived together and had a family of children of different ages. That at that time, viz: 1810, said Nancy was a young woman of at least eighteen years of age. And that she still knows said Naomi who is the widow of Thomas Belknap aforesaid, and she now resides in Harrison County Virginia, but that in 1810, they lived in Pendleton County Virginia.

In presence of
John Harrison
Virginia, Harrison County to wit:

her
Catherine X Teater
mark

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION DOCUMENT

Fold3 Image 3

No 312 act Mar 24/51
 July 9th

Naomi Belknap
 Thos Belknap Private
 Thomas Belknap

Capt. H. Belknap
 Col.

32230

Revolutionary War

Test Pension. Certif. no
 act July 3. 1848 Page 134. vol 3
 Certif. dated Nov 13. 1851

W. W. W. 27/57

B. W. W.

C. Mollohan

PENSION FOR REVOLUTIONARY WAR SERVICE

Fold 3 Image 20

11.205
Virginia Whelins
Naomi Belknap
 widow of *Thomas*
 who died on the 18. Decr 1835
 of *Harrison* in the State of *Virginia*
 who was a *Private* in the *Company* commanded
 by Captain *—* of the *Regt* commanded
 by Col *—* in the *Revolution*
— for 8 months

Inscribed on the Roll of *Whelins*
 at the rate of *26* Dollars *66* Cents
 per annum, to commence on the 1st day of
 March, 1836.

Certificate of Pension issued the 17 day of
Novr 1857 and *debt to*
L. Godwin

Arrears to the 1st of *Present*
 Semi-annual allowance ending

J. P. Neighman Clerk.
 Recorded in Book *—* Vol. *—* Page *263*
 { Revolutionary Claim, }
 { Act July 7, 1838. }

NAOMI BELKNAP'S WIDOW'S PENSION

Wheeling

NAME.	RANK.	Half Yearly Allowance.	Commencement.	1836.		1837.		1838.		1839.		1840.		1841.		1842.		1843.		1844.		1845.		1846.		1847.		1848.		1849.		1850.	
				March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.	March.	September.

Elizabeth	Atkinson	widm of Charles private 40.	11. March 1836.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Margaret	Adams	Jonathan Drayton 50. 00. 1st.	1836.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rebecca	Bach,	of John Lieut. 40.	1st. March 1836.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Margaret	Bush,	Adam Private 21. 66. 1st.	1836.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mary	Board,	Petrick 40. 00. 1st. Nov.	1836.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Naomi	Bethune,	Thomas 13. 33. 1st. March	1836.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Esther	Byrns,	John 40. 00. 1st. Nov.	1836.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

THE QUILT MYSTERY

By Mary S. Glass

It was in a large house in Webster Springs that I found one of a number of quilts, but this one was different. Like others, the quilting was done by hand with very tiny stitches. But instead of being pieced, it was made of two large pieces of unbleached muslin with cotton batting in between. Large flowers were embroidered on the muslin, each with fifteen petals, and each petal bearing the name of a person. There were seven rows of flowers, and each row contained six flowers. Do the math. That means that this quilt contained 630 names embroidered upon it.

Just who were these people, and just who made this quilt? How old is this quilt? It is in remarkable shape, with the exception of a hole cut into one of the flowers. Was something spilled on that spot that ate into it, requiring the spot removed physically? Was there a small burn that required the area to be surgically removed? Or did the maker of the quilt have a falling out with the individual embroidered at that spot and decided to physically remove that person from her life and from the quilt?

Just who might have been the person who did all this work? The house was built about 1907 for a recently married couple by the groom's father. They moved into the house where they raised five children. The wife who was so fortunate to live in such a fine house was my grandmother, Mary Rutherford Skidmore. She had grown up in Center District of Gilmer County, the daughter of Minter n and Sarah Brannon. She had an eighth-grade education and lived on a farm with a love of riding horses. Her parents had a large family and were not well off financially. She had gone to Webster Springs to help in the Rutherford Hotel run by her aunt

and uncle, Alice and Archie Rutherford, where she met John B. Skidmore, a banker in the town. She was an excellent seamstress, as evidenced by her very tiny stitches.

But she wasn't the only woman who spent part of their lives in that house. Her mother-in-law, Nancy Raikes Skidmore, lived in the house when her husband was dying and later as a widow until her death. Although she was born in Buckingham County, Virginia, she grew up in the southern part of Upshur County where she served as a school teacher before her marriage to Levi Skidmore. She was skilled in homemaking activities, cooking for inmates in the jail where her husband was sheriff and teaching her granddaughter how to make biscuits and other food. She quilted on an old quilting frame, made linsy-woolsey on a loom with delicate designs, and did beautiful embroidery.

Another candidate is the mother-in-law of Vivian Skidmore Griggs who spent her last years as an invalid in that house, bringing with her the items she had made over her lifetime. May Beall had grown up in Ritchie County and married Claude Griggs. They settled first in Vadis in Lewis County and then moved to Weston. She was also a quilt maker and did other handicraft work. I suppose that there were others who may have been in the house temporarily among my grandmother's sisters who had lived in various places. Nevertheless, in searching for clues as to who made the quilt and when, it became apparent that we needed to find out more about the people whose names are on the quilt and try to look for a relationship between them. More questions arose. Just what was the connection between those 630 people? Were they related? Did they belong to the same church or social organization? Were they neighbors? But, before exploring the names on this quilt, perhaps we should learn a little about the history of signature quilts in the United States to give us some ideas about this one. Signature quilts have been a part of needlework heritage since the 1600s. Typically, they were made to commemorate special events in a family or community or support causes such as a war effort, temperance, a church, or a school. They could be used as fund raisers. For instance, women might sell a place on their quilts for something like ten cents. Even more money would be raised if the quilt was raffled off. These quilts rose to prominence in the 1830s and 1840s. (Edwards)

Jody Sanders wrote that signature quilts could be generally classified into four categories:

1. Album Quilts – These were keepsake quilts that might be made as a wedding gift. Inside of blocks would be a place for a name to be written or embroidered.
2. Presentation Quilts – These were made to honor the recipient for a special event, retirement or even as a parting gift when someone was moving away.
3. Fundraising Quilts – Quilts made specifically to raise money for an organization, charity, missionary work, a political point of view, or a church. An individual or family name would be added to the quilt for a small contribution. Sanders reported that these quilts can be easily recognized due to the large number of names on the quilt.
4. Celebrity Quilts – These quilts were made from blocks of fabric that had been sent to celebrities, politicians, or prominent members of a community with a request that they be signed and mailed back. The blocks were then returned with a signed photograph or letter by the person to help authenticate the signature. These blocks were then sewn into a quilt. (Sanders)

Based on the above and the fact that there are 631 names or initials representing names, one might assume that the mystery quilt was likely made as a fundraiser. This still does not tell us about how the quilt was obtained, who made it, nor much about the people whose names appeared on the quilt. It also does not indicate the cause for which it was made.

To explore this, we need to find out who these people were and locate them, when possible, on United States census records. This would give a clue regarding where they lived and when, and possibly when the quilt was made. Some names were very difficult to read with the embroidery. Some did not have last names, but most of those appeared to be children of the person preceding them. Some of the wives did not have given names on the quilt, but were listed as Mrs. beside the name or initials of their husbands.

Nevertheless, the task was apparent. Each name on the quilt needed to be copied. Indexing census records was a piece of cake compared to deciphering many of the names embroidered on the quilt, some squeezed into the size of the petal of a flower. Nevertheless, most were legible enough to identify. Then came taking each name and trying to find it in census records. In doing so, it was found that the majority of people identified lived in Braxton County, West Virginia, or neighboring counties. The vast majority of these lived in the Salt Lick District of Braxton County in 1920 – a few being found only in the 1910 census, and some only in the 1930 census. The youngest child found on the quilt was born about 1925. Based on this, it appears that the quilt was likely completed around 1925. (However, there were three people by the name of Benjamin F Conrad – one deceased, one living in Glenville at the age of 77 in 1920, and one age 0 in 1930 in Braxton County. No other Conrads were found on the quilt. Thus it appears that it is unlikely to be the baby born around 1930.) The 42 quilt squares may have been embroidered by one or several persons.

Many of the people who were not living in the areas mentioned either grew up there, had relatives living there, or worked in occupations where they were mobile – coal miners, lumbermen, clergymen, traveling salesmen, and so on. Several people were listed on the quilt as duplicates. Perhaps they donated more than once to the cause. Some were teenagers without their parents named, and some were under the age of five.

Several names were names of people who were deceased. Each flower contained fifteen names. One particular flower appeared to contain the names of the people in the family of William Andrew and Edna Knight living in Salt Lick District. In searching census records, four names did not show up. Searching for these names in the Braxton County birth records, it was found that one had been stillborn, and three were triplets. In searching death records, it was found that two of the triplets had died the day they were born, and the other had died the following day. This family wanted to memorialize all their children on that quilt – those living and those they had lost in infancy.

It is obvious by the large number of names on the quilt that a large number of people supported this venture, and this support went further than just Braxton County. There were families with the surnames of Beall and Griggs on the quilt, but these did not appear to link to the family members of May Beall Griggs. There were Hyers on the quilt, but not descendants of Mary Raikes Hyer, wife of Edwin Hyre and sister of my great-grandmother, Nancy Raikes. However, it brings to mind the daughter of another sister in that family, Susan Raikes Mace. The children in the Raikes family grew up in Holly Grove, Banks District of Upshur County, just north of Salt Lick District in Braxton County. When Susan married Eli Mace, they settled in

Hacker Valley of Webster County. Their daughter, Rose A. Mace, was born in 1879, became a college graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College, and served as a missionary in China for the Methodist Episcopal Church for most of her life. Periodically, she would return to the United States and speak to various groups about the work she was doing in China and inviting people to donate to the cause. She was my grandfather's cousin, and my grandmother, a Baptist in Webster Springs, wrote to her regularly and encouraged her fellow church members to contribute financially to the work that Rosa was doing for the people in China. Although none of the names of my family appear on the quilt, it is not unthinkable to imagine my grandmother, who had enough means to do so, bidding on this quilt as a support for this cousin's work, if indeed this was why the quilt was made.

We may never know exactly why the quilt was created, nor how it came into the possession of this particular family, but we do know it is a little piece of the history of this region in West Virginia. The time has come to revive this quilt as a fundraiser for a worthy cause, this being the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Association. If you wish to know whether your family is represented on this quilt, consult the spreadsheet found at the Hacker's Creek website.

Sources:

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<https://www.allpeoplequilt.com/quilt-patterns/history-of-signature-quilts>



Stay tuned for more news about this amazing quilt. Check the webpage and FB page for details about our plans for the quilt.

YESTERYEARS

By BILL ADLER

Lewis County Schools 100 Years Ago - I

In the 1882-1883 school year, Lewis County had 90 public schools. In the first half of that year, according to a report by County Superintendent G. C. Lawson of Berlin, 84 of them were staffed and in operation, with 71 gentlemen and 19 ladies as teachers. There were 3192 students enrolled, with an average daily attendance of 2520, about 30 per school. All were one-room schools, except the Weston Graded School (1), which had six classrooms and as many teachers. Fifty-five of the teachers had No. 1 certificates, 28, No. 2, and seven, No. 3.

Mr. Lawson said: "We think we have a very energetic and proficient class of teachers in the county, considering the low wages they get in some places. We notice that in those districts where they have the best houses and pay the highest wages to teachers, the schools are generally more advanced than in the other districts. If teachers were only paid better wages, there would be greater inducement for them to fit and qualify themselves for the high and noble profession of teaching."

In the course of his duties, the Superintendent, in 1883 an elected official, visited each of the schools, and in a number of letters published by the "Democrat", beginning with its January 6 issue, he reported on the status of each of the units in his charge, magisterial district by district.

HACKER'S CREEK DISTRICT - BUCKHANNON RUN SCHOOL: This school was located off ~~BUCKHANNON RUN~~ of Hacker's Creek, not far from the Upshur County line. The teacher was E. G. Taylor, the enrollment was 41. Mr. Lawson reported: "Mr. Taylor is a young teacher but is doing very well with his school, so far as we can tell. The pupils, for the most part, are studious and deport themselves well." **PLEASANT GROVE SCHOOL:** This school was on Hacker's Creek itself, a short distance downstream from the Upshur line. "Mr. B. C. Davis is teaching this school. There are only 16 pupils present and an enrollment of 27. From some cause, this school is not as well attended as it should be. This is Mr. Davis' first school, and he is trying to teach a successful school and is very attentive to the wants of his pupils."

UPPER JESSE'S RUN SCHOOL: Located on the Jesse's Run road at its intersection with the Bull Lick road, in the extreme northeast corner of Lewis County, near both the Harrison and Upshur lines. Teacher - M. D. Helmick. Students - 10 enrolled. "Mr. Helmick has a very interesting school. He has introduced map drawing, which creates quite an interest in geography. He also has a class in algebra." **LOWER JESSE'S RUN SCHOOL:** I am unable to pinpoint the location of this school. Lawson: "We were agreeably surprised . . . to find that Mr. L. A. McNemar, the teacher, had the walls decorated with maps, charts, pictures, and a beautiful motto - 'Onward and Upward' - wreathed in evergreens. He believes in making the schoolroom attractive, so the pupils will want to come there. There were 37 pupils present and 33 enrolled. There is a marked degree of improvement in this school during this present term, which is due to the various means employed by the teacher to interest the pupils in their studies."

YESTERYEARS

LAUREL LICK SCHOOL: This school was about two miles up Laurel Lick from Berlin. Teacher - G. C. Hinzman. Pupils - 34 enrolled, 46 present. Lawson: "This is too many pupils for any one teacher to do justice by, but Mr. Hinzman has good order and is getting along splendidly, considering the size of his school. He does not have the time to devote to the recitations that he would, were there not so many classes to recite. The house is too small to be healthy for so large a school." **WALNUT GROVE SCHOOL:** This school was located in the community of Berlin. Teacher - G. M. Hamilton. Fifty students enrolled, 29 present. Lawson: "The girls in this school far surpass the boys in their studies, especially in mathematics. There is a class of girls in higher arithmetic, first algebra and higher algebra. This is the first country school where we have found higher algebra taught. Miss S. Maud Lawson (2) is the one who is studying it at this school."

STONE COAL SCHOOL: Location unknown. (3) Lawson: "This school is taught by Mr. J. E. Waggoner. There were 38 pupils present and 53 enrolled. The attendance is a great deal larger than it was last year. The pupils seem studious and maintain splendid order during school. With the exception of one class, the school is not very far advanced." **GRASS LICK SCHOOL:** Location unknown. Lawson: "Mr. A. B. Hinzman is teaching this school. There were 28 enrolled and 21 in attendance. The school is small, but Mr. Hinzman is getting along very pleasantly."

SMITH'S RUN SCHOOL: This school was near the head of Smith's Run. Lawson: "This school is taught by Mr. J. S. Shepler. There were 16 pupils present and 20 enrolled. The school is small and not very far advanced; the pupils conduct themselves well, and the teacher seems to labor earnestly for their improvement." **JANE LEW DISTRICT:** Lawson: "This is now an Independent District. The school will continue for a term of six months or longer, and we hope to see the school making rapid advancement, as it will now have longer terms of school. This school is under the instruction of Mr. B. J. Coburn. There were 24 pupils present and an enrollment of 44. Mr. Coburn has introduced music, which adds greatly to the interest of the school. We would like to see music introduced in our schools."

FAIR VIEW SCHOOL: This school was on the Jane Lew-Berlin road, next to the present-day location of the Fairview cemetery and was taught, in 1883, by Miss Abbie Clifton of Weston. Lawson: "Owing to sickness in the school, the attendance was not very large at the time of my visit. There were 23 pupils present and 38 enrolled. Miss Clifton takes great care to teach her pupils manners, by example as well as precept." **FISHER SCHOOL:** Location unknown. Lawson: "Miss Mary W. Smith of Weston is teaching this school, with 18 pupils present and 30 enrolled. This is Miss Smith's first school, but she seems to be getting along most pleasantly. The pupils are mostly small and not much advanced in their studies."

LAW SCHOOL: Location unknown. Lawson: "This school is taught by Mr. W. A. Brown. Thirty-six pupils present and 49 enrolled. This is Mr. Brown's first school, but he is teaching a good school. The pupils are studious and content themselves well." **BROAD RUN SCHOOL:** Presumably this school was in the Lightburn area, but its exact location is unknown to me. Lawson: "Mr. A. M. Curry of Upshur County is teaching this school. This is a small school, being only 25 enrolled and 17 present at the time of my visit. Mr. Curry seems to be a good teacher and gives satisfaction."

Lawson: "There are 13 schools being taught in the Hacker's Creek District this year. The teachers all seem to be giving general satisfaction as far as I can judge." (To be continued in next week's YESTERYEARS, with a report on the schools in Freeman's Creek District 100 years ago.)

FOOTNOTES: (1) The Weston Graded School was the 8-room brick building that is now a part of the Weston Junior High School complex. It is the white-painted building opposite the Central School, next to the old Weston High School building. It was built in 1872.

(2) Maud Lawson was the 18-year-old daughter of the Rev. J. S. Lawson.

(3) Readers of YESTERYEARS are welcome to help locate these old schools and make any other comments that are appropriate. Please address them to the Weston "Democrat", Box 968, Weston, WV, 26462.

Wes Cochran Books

Mr. Cochran gave us rights to copy and sell his books. These are those we have available for Central WV. If you are interested in a book or have a question on any please call HCPD at 304-269-7091 or email hcpd@hackerscreek.org the price is listed on the books, but 6% tax and shipping will need to be added.

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